

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3012

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 83

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TAGS: ML, PINT, POEV

SUBJ: PRESIDENT TRAORE' NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE-
PART 2 THE POLITICAL SCENE

REF: BAMAKO 34

1. SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED PLANS FOR A NEW
POLITICAL PARTY, THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MALIAN SOCIETY,
THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH AND THE PROBLEMS OF CORRUPTION
AND INEFFICIENCY IN THE BUREAUCRACY AND STATE ENTERPRISES.
HIS ANALYSIS OF THESE QUESTIONS WAS REplete WITH PLATI-
TUDES OFFERING LITTLE NEW IN THE WAY OF SPECIFIC PROGRAM.
END SUMMARY

2. THE PARTY. PRESIDENT TRAORE SAID THAT THE RULING
MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION IS DRAFTING
THE DOCUMENTS THAT WILL GOVERN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
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THE NEW POLITICAL PARTY. A PARTY CONGRESS WILL

DISCUSS, IMPROVE AND RATIFY THESE STATUTES. THE PARTY WILL HAVE AS ITS ROLE THE COORDINATION OF MASS MOVEMENTS. COMMENT: THE REFERENCE TO MASS MOVEMENTS SUGGESTS THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE INTENDS TO BUILD THE PARTY AROUND THE LABOR, WOMEN'S AND YOUTH MOVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. SINCE THE PARTY WAS TO HAVE BEEN SET UP BY THE END OF 1975, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS HAVING TROUBLE AGREEING ON DETAILS OF THE NEW PARTY STRUCTURE.

3. WOMEN. THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN (UNFM) FOR HAVING SUCCESSFULLY TRANSLATED ITS ROLE INTO ACTION. WOMEN, HE SAID MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE NATION. WOMEN NOW OCCUPIED IMPORTANT POSTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND HE WOULD NOT DESPAIR TO SEE THEM ONE DAY IN TOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. COMMENT: THE UNFM HAS INCREASED ITS ACTIVITY AND VISIBILITY THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY WITH THE OVERSEAS JOURNEYS OF THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE AND OF THE UNFM SECRETARY GENERAL FATOU TALL TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA. THE UNFM IS NOW GRAPPLING WITH PROBLEM OF SETTING UP A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND DETERMINING HOW TO RELATE THE IMMEDIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF MALIAN WOMEN.

4. YOUTH. THE PRESIDENT PROMISED THAT AFTER THE PARTY WAS ESTABLISHED MALIAN YOUTH WOULD BE REORGANIZED IN A DEMOCRATIC FASHION. HE RECOGNIZED THE HIGH IDEALS OF YOUTH AND NOTED THAT THEY WOULD NOT FOLLOW LEADERS WHO CHEATED THEM. YOUTH, HE SAID, WERE THE LEAVEN OF THE NATION. IT WAS THE BOLDNESS OF YOUTH THAT WOULD PURIFY THE NATION. COMMENT: THE CONTRAST TO THE PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS WHICH CHARACTERIZED OTHER PARTS OF HIS SPEECH, THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL SCENE IN GENERAL AND OF YOUTH IN PARTICULAR IS NOTABLE FOR ITS PLATITUDES. HE OFFERED NO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO EDUCATING, EMPLOYING AND CONTROLLING THE UNDER-THIRTY CROWD WHICH CONSTITUTES THE MAJORITY OF MALI'S POPULATION.

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5. BUREAUCRACY. THE LARGEST PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS FOCUSED ON INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION IN STATE ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID CORRUPTION WAS AT THE BASE OF ALL MALI'S DIFFICULTIES. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT A HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUALS LIVED OFF THE BLOOD AND SWEAT OF THE PEOPLE. HENCEFORTH THE COMMITTEE WOULD STOP WARNING AND BEGIN TO ACT. CORRUPT ADMINISTRATORS WOULD BE THROWN OUT. COMMENT: THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

RECENTLY PASSED A PENAL CODE PERMITTING LIFE IMPRISONMENT
FOR EMBEZZLEMENT UP TO \$25,000, AND THE DEATH
PENALTY FOR EMBEZZLEMENT OF OVER \$25,000. THE
MAIN QUESTION IS WHETHER THE PRESIDENT CAN KEEP HIS
PROMISE TO ACT. A SERIOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPT OR
INCOMPETENT ELEMENTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND STATE
ENTERPRISES WOULD CUT DEEPLY INTO THE MILITARY
COMMITTEE'S POWER BASE--THE BUREAUCRATIC AND
MILITARY ELITE. A MORE LIKELY RESULT, GIVEN MALIAN
ADMINISTRATIVE TRADITION, IS A SHIFT OF DIRECTORS AMONG
DIFFERENT BUREAUS OR ENTERPRISES AND A REORGANIZATION
AT THE LOWER LEVELS.
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